

EXETER TOWN WARRANT – 2018

To the inhabitants of the Town of Exeter, in the County of Rockingham, in the said State, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

First Session

You are hereby notified that the first session (the Deliberative Session) of the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 3rd, 2018 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Arthur L. Hanson III Center for the Performing Arts at Exeter High School, 1 Blue Hawk Drive. The first session will consist of explanation, discussion and debate of each of the following warrant articles, and will also afford voters who are present the opportunity to propose, debate and adopt amendments to warrant articles, except those articles in which wording is prescribed by state law.

Second Session

The second session of the annual town meeting, to elect town officers by official ballot and to vote on all warrant articles as they may have been amended at the first session, will be held on Tuesday, March 13th, 2018 at the Talbot Gymnasium at the Tuck Learning Center, 30 Linden Street. Polls for voting by official ballot will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

Article 1

To choose the following: 1 Selectman for a 3-year term; 1 Supervisor of the Checklist for a 6-year term; 1 Supervisor of the Checklist for a 4-year term; 3 Trustees of the Library for a 3-year term; 1 Trustee of Trust Funds for a 3-year term; 1 Trustee of the Robinson Fund for a 7-year term; 1 Trustee of Swasey Parkway for a 3-year term.

Article 2 Zoning Amendment #1: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town zoning ordinance, as follows: Amend Article 8 Historic District to allow a Minimal Impact application that can be administratively approved by Town Staff. The purpose of this amendment is to give less impactful projects proposed in a historic district an alternative permitting procedure that can be administered by Town Staff without necessarily having to appear before the Historic District Commission. The Historic District Commission is in favor of this amendment.

Article 3

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven million one thousand five hundred twenty dollars (\$7,100,520) for the purpose of renovation and expansion of the recreation park at 4 Hampton Road, to include construction of a new recreation multipurpose building, expanded parking, relocation and construction of new planet playground and expanded athletic fields with lights, and authorize the issuance of not more than (\$7,100,520) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), and authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and determine the rate of interest thereon; furthermore, authorize the Board to accept any state or federal grants, donations, public/private partnerships, sponsorship or naming rights related to the project. The actual amount bonded will be reduced by the amounts of impact fees, revolving fund fees, softball league contributions and other donations or grants available at that time. (This is a petitioned warrant article).

(A 3/5 ballot vote required for approval.)

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen 2-3.

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five million forty nine thousand seven hundred fifty five dollars (\$5,049,755) for the design and construction of renovations and additions, including furniture, fixtures, and equipment, to the Exeter Public Library, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$5,049,755 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Debt service will be paid from the general fund.

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1.

Article 5

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million one hundred thousand dollars (\$1,100,000) for additional improvements in the Epping Road TIF District including road and signalization improvements, to be used in conjunction with the funds authorized to be raised in Article 10 of the 2015 Town Meeting, and to authorize the issuance of not more than (\$1,100,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. No bonds will be issued unless and until debt service can be paid from the Epping Road tax increment district fund.

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 6

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred sixty five thousand and zero dollars (\$665,000) for the replacement of a town water line on Washington Street from Brentwood Road to Front Street, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$665,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Debt service will be paid from the water fund.

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 7

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred thousand and zero dollars (\$600,000) for purposes of further development of groundwater sources in the town, and to conduct an updated review of the surface water system, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$600,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Debt service will be paid from the water fund.

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-2.

Article 8

To choose all other necessary Town Officers, Auditors or Committees for the ensuing year.

Article 9

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriation by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$18,646,644. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$18,264,224 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 10

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a water operating budget, not including appropriation by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$3,361,387. Should this article be defeated, the water default budget shall be \$3,295,116 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 11

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a sewer operating budget, not including appropriation by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$2,567,965. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,446,043 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 12

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the Exeter Police Association NEPBA, which calls for the following increased salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Salary/Benefits Increase
FY18	\$44,901
FY19	\$36,981
FY20	\$35,800

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-four thousand nine hundred and one dollars (\$44,901) for the 2018 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 13

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Sidewalk Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from general taxation.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 14

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a 7-year lease/purchase agreement for \$525,299 for the purpose of lease/purchasing a fire engine for the Exeter Fire Department to replace a 1997 engine, and to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-eight thousand and one hundred seventy five dollars (\$88,175), which represents the first of 7 annual payments for that purpose. This lease/purchase will contain an escape (non-appropriation) clause. This sum to come from general taxation.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-2.

Article 15

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the Sick Leave Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from general fund surplus.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 16

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of seventy-three thousand eight hundred and ninety seven dollars (\$73,897), for the purpose of replacing Fire Department radios. This sum to come from general taxation.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1.

Article 17

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a 5-year lease/purchase agreement for \$250,400 for the purpose of lease/purchasing a loader for the Exeter Highway Department to replace a 2005 loader, and to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-six thousand three hundred and forty dollars (\$56,340), which represents the first of 5 annual payments for that purpose. This lease/purchase will contain an escape (non-appropriation) clause. This sum to come from general taxation.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 18

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), for the purpose of conducting a public safety study to address future operation and facility needs of the Exeter Police, Fire, EMS, and Dispatch departments. This sum to come from general taxation.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-2.

Article 19

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of fifty-thousand dollars (\$50,000), for the purpose of conducting a traffic and parking study in the downtown area to include a portion of Front Street, Water Street, String Bridge, Franklin Street, Bow Street, Chestnut Street, Center Street, and other streets in the general downtown area. This sum to come from general taxation.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-2.

Article 20

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Snow and Ice Deficit Non-Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from general fund surplus.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 21

To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a loan agreement of up to \$30,000 through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund for the purpose of developing an Asset Management plan for the Town's wastewater infrastructure. The loan will provide up to \$30,000 principal forgiveness; therefore, no repayment of the loan will be required.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 22

To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a loan agreement of up to \$30,000 through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund for the purpose of developing an Asset Management plan for the Town's storm water infrastructure. The loan will provide up to \$30,000 principal forgiveness; therefore, no repayment of the loan will be required.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 23

To see if the Town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under RSA 35:1 for the purpose of general maintenance on town cemeteries including the Winter Street cemetery, and to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty seven thousand dollars (\$27,000) to be placed in this fund and further the Board of Selectmen shall be named agents of the fund and be authorized to make expenditures from the fund. These funds may also be used to match grants available for town cemeteries under the control of the Selectboard as Cemetery Trustees. This sum to come from general taxation.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 24

To see if the Town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under RSA 35:1 for the purpose of ongoing maintenance of the Swasey Parkway Pavilion and to raise and appropriate the sum of seven

thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) to be placed in this fund and further the Board of Selectmen shall be named agents of the fund and be authorized to make expenditures from the fund. This article will not impact the tax rate as surplus funds are available from the Swasey Parkway Pavilion project completed in 2007 and are currently held in an escrow account.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 25

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of the Epping Road Tax Increment District Plan Amendment (dated January 8, 2018) in accordance with RSA 162-K:9, which allocates the use of tax increments for retirement of bonds and notes as outlined in the plan.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0.

Article 26

By petition of Herb Moyer and others, to be placed on the Town Warrant: Shall the town express its support to Governor Sununu for New Hampshire to join Maine and Massachusetts and study the feasibility of developing offshore wind power in the Gulf of Maine. The town will provide written notice urging that Governor Sununu request that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management form an intergovernmental task force. A bipartisan NH legislative committee studied the potential for offshore wind in 2014, and recommended the establishment of this task force. Floating wind turbines located far offshore in federal waters, usually not visible from land, combined with other renewable energy will move NH to 100% renewable energy by 2050. The building of offshore wind farms will bring a significant number of jobs and revenue to New Hampshire.

Article 27

On the petition of Nicholas T. Gray and other registered voters of Exeter, in an effort to equip voters with a greater understanding of the tax impacts of proposed warrant articles, to see if the Town will vote the following:

In accordance with RSA 32:5, V-b, the Town shall, for all future annual budgets and special warrant articles requiring public funding, include an estimate of the tax impact for each appropriation. These tax estimates shall be provided in nominal dollar amounts corresponding to the median single-family home assessment in Town. The estimates will be provided separately as part of each respective warrant article. For a warrant article that will result in a bond issue, the tax estimate shall assume a bond of specified length at prevailing interest rates.

The Board of Selectmen shall, by majority vote and in compliance with the requirements set forth above, approve the estimation methodology utilized and the exact language included on the Town Warrant.

Article 28

“On petition of Bruce Jones and other registered voters of Exeter, in an effort to establish that all public spaces have a consistent value and prioritized availability to Exeter-based businesses, non-profits and residents, to see if the Town will vote the following:

The Town shall apply the current Town Hall usage fee of \$125 per day to all businesses, including non-profit organizations, that are not based in Exeter. This fee shall also apply to the second floor space above Town Hall.

The Board of Selectmen shall, by majority vote and in compliance with the requirements set forth above, approve the exact language included on the Town Warrant.”

Article 29

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Don Clement, Chairman

Anne L. Surman, Vice-Chairwoman

Kathy Corson, Clerk

Julie D. Gilman

Daniel W. Chartrand

We certify that on the ____th day of January, 2018, we caused a true copy of the within warrant to be posted at the Exeter Town Hall on Front Street, the Exeter Public Library at Founder’s Park, Exeter High School at 1 Blue Hawk Drive, Talbot Gymnasium at Tuck Learning Campus, 30 Linden Street, and the Town Clerk’s Office, 10 Front Street.

Given under our hands and seal this ____th day of January, 2018.

Don Clement, Chairman

Anne L. Surman, Vice-Chairwoman

Kathy Corson, Clerk

Julie D. Gilman

Daniel W. Chartrand

